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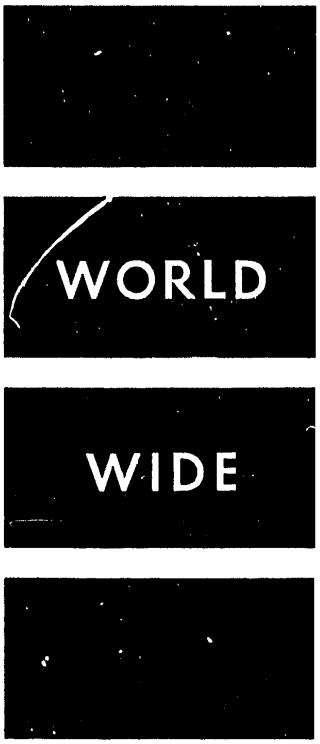

TRANSLATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(FOUO 2/79)

U. S. JOINT PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH SERVICE

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JAPAN

65 PERCENT POLLED FEAR INCREASING POLLUTION

Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 1 Feb 79 p 2

[Text]

A poll conducted by the Environment Agency showed that as many as 65 percent of those polled fear that pollution in Japan will worsen in the future.

The poll, the result of which was announced Thursday, also showed that revving up of car engines topped the list of complaints about noise pollution in residential areas.

In the list of the so-called "neighborhood nuisances," the noise of automobile engines was followed by that of loudspeakers used by vendors of toilet paper and other items.

Other sources of complaints were noisy pets, TV, stereos, neighbors' voices, coolers and noise from bars and pachinko parlors.

But 70 percent of those who were annoyed by such noises took no action to avoid disputes with their neighbors.

Fifty-six percent of those surveyed said that they were victimized by such forms of pollution one time or more in the past year.

Increasing numbers of residents in the countryside fear pollution will increase.

They believe growing numbers of automobiles will further pollute the air and riase the nose level.

They also think that the streams and the beaches will be further contaminated by household waste.

The Environment Agency said 500 monitors scattered throughout the country responded to the "pollution survey," held last October, the first of its kind since 1974.

Officials of the agency said an opinion survey specifically on automobiles would be held in March because the latest survey pointed to the seriousness of automobile pollution.

The results of such surveys are taken into account in mapping out environmental policies.

In cities and the countryside, noise was cited as the biggest source of annoyance. It was then followed by atmospheric pollution, odors, water contamination, vibrations, soil pollution and ground sinking in that order.

According to the poll, 48 percent said yes to a question "Do you think environmental pollution has become more serious than four or five years ago?"

It was 19.1 percent down from the rate obtained for the same question in the 1974 survey.

The reduction signifies "progress is being achieved through the environmental policies of the country," agency officials said.

CSO: 5000

JAPAN

MITI PRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR OVERSEAS PROJECTS

Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHINBUN in Japanese 30 Dec 78 p 23

[Text] Environmental pollution problems caused by Japanese companies in Third World countries have recently attracted attention. In addition to such cases as one now in litigation where a Japanese company was ordered by the government (Brazil-Ajinomoto Company) to temporarily halt operations because of plant waste water, and another where a company was ordered to make indemnity payments of approximately 1.2 billion yen for mining pollution (Malaysia--"Mamuuto" Mine), according to studies by MITI and others there are said to be more than 10 cases of "pollution trouble." Therefore, in an effort to prevent this from becoming a stimulus for anti-Japanese feelings in those areas, MITI is strengthening guidelines for Japanese companies operating overseas.

The case between Brazil and Ajinomoto (the local corporate name is "Ajinomoto Inter-Americana Company) first came up in October 1977. The waste water from the company's plant producing monosodium glutamate was fouling the river, polluting the water supply for Americana City. Without warning, Ajinomoto received an order to halt operations for 49 days from the Sao Paulo State Industrial Pollution Bureau. They were able to resume operations again in December, but in February 1978 they were indicted by city authorities, and even now hearings are continuing.

As might be expected, in view of increasing local employment and raising the people's standard of living, the plant had hoped that the people would not overly worry about pollution. However, there was a strong reaction. Also in Sao Paulo state, another 100 percent Japanese-owned subsidiary named "Atoranchika," one of the five largest tanning factories in Brazil, has also repeatedly received warning notices from local authorities for factory discharge and bad odor problems.

According to Assistant Chairman Haku Nakano of the Brazil Air Pollution Prevention Association, "Brazilian air pollution is much worse than you might imagine. Even though Brazil's land area is large, nature's purification process does not necessarily save us from the effects of environmental pollution." He also points out that in the Ajinomoto case, "One must suspect

them of coming to Brazil because it does not have as strict standards as Japan and because the people have little power."

As a result of the Malaysian people's increased awareness of pollution problems, recently there have been at least three cases of pollution problems involving Japanese firms. One is the "Mamuuto" copper mine, financed by seven Japanese copper producing companies including the Mitsubishi Metal Mining Company as well as the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, and managed by OMRD Sabah Company, which was set up in a joint venture with local capital. Earth and sand displaced in extracting the copper was washed into adjoining fields by torrential rains in February 1977, completely burying them.

In response to the incident, the company has already paid the farmers approximately 70 million yen as compensation for lost production, but in July 1978 the Sabah state government requested approximately 1.2 billion yen for relocation expenses for the afflicted farmers. This was not only for the damage caused by the runoff of earth and sand, but also in response to the residents' complaints of copper poisoning. Despite the company's objections that "there is no copper poisoning," according to the results of analysis of the soil surrounding the mine by the Anti-Pollution Export Information Center (Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku) in a recent on-the-spot investigation, the injurious heavy metal chrome was detected at the high level of 2560 PPM, and a high concentration of copper was present at 1170 PPM.

Also, it has been pointed out that at the fishing village of Kuala "Juru" in northern Malaysia, the fishermen have been deprived of their livelihood by the factory discharge from the ploywood industrial development established by 20-odd Japanese companies, including Toray Industries. It is also claimed that residents at the Penang International Airport were afflicted by "earth and sand pollution" left by Japanese companies (Maeda Construction Company) in the process of extending the runways.

In connection with the litigation banning pollution at its Chiba plant, Kawasaki Steel Corporation decided to build the sintering furnaces it had originally planned on locating domestically on Mindanao Island in the Philippines instead. Since 1974, such tactics of "exporting pollution" have caused quite a bit of commotion. The plant ceased operations in May 1977, but according to a study released last month by Tatemi Yamada, a lecturer at Sophia University involved in this issue, four workers at the plant have become asthmatic. Kawasaki Steel denies such criticism saying, "The concentrations of sulphur oxides (SOx) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) are a whole figure lower than plants in Japan, and electric dust collectors are used against dust and other particles. Water used for cooling is recycled, and so pollution countermeasures are complete (Environmental Supervision Department)." However, the pollution issue is tangled up with a human rights issue of compulsory transfers of the local people involved in the plant construction. Although it is not clear whether pollution exists or not, this is a good example where agreement with

the local civic authorities was not necessarily agreement with the local people.

In addition to these cases, the same kinds of pollution problems are occurring in other Asian nations. Japanese chemical industry inroads into Korea, the Asahi Caustic Soda [Company] mercury pollution problem in Thailand, and the destructive logging practices of Honshu Paper Company operations in Papua New Guinea are examples. Even on the list of incidents of friction between local societies and Japanese companies compiled by MITI last year, there have been 10 cases of "environmental (pollution) problems" since 1974, second only to "labor problems" (15 cases).

MITI says, "Among these 10 cases, even if there is not actually any pollution damage, the result is trouble from misunderstandings and anti-Japanese feelings. However, because each country's views on pollution differ, the solution is not simply a matter of drawing up a physical pollution prevention policy, it will also require a policy towards the local people to improve their understanding of Japanese firms."

Concerning this problem, Jun Nishikawa, professor (international economics) at Waseda University, points out, "Japanese companies' methods of going into other countries present problems. They usually do not consult with the local people, only with the government. Also, as far as company attitudes are concerned, there seems to be a phenomenon of a distinct difference between Japanese companies, who are mostly concerned about their stockholders, and American companies, who are highly aware of making a contribution to the local society. Japanese companies should become more inclined towards learning a lesson from the pollution problems they caused in Japan."

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CSO: 4105

JAPAN

COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH GROUP TO STUDY POLLUTION

Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 79 p 2

[Text] The government's studies on pollution and its effects on the environment appear to have become full-fledged with the establishment of a comprehensive research group in Ibaraki Prefecture after people started complaining of environmental hazards.

The group — the National Institute for Environmental Studies — is now tracing the process generating nitrogen dioxide, a major air pollutant said to be causing photochemical smog in many cities. It is doing so with indoor simulation tests claimed to be of the world's highest quality.

The institute was founded in October 1974 at the Tsukuba research and academic town located at the foot of Mt. Tsukuba, some 40 km southwest of Mito.

The town is designed to accept 43 state-run research groups eventually.

The aim of the institute is to define the impact pollution has on the environment and human health first and then find out ways of creating an environment favorable to human living.

Despite its affiliation with the Environment Agency, the institute's more than 100 researchers and university professors on the payroll are given wide options in pursuing subjects of interest to them without political intervention.

One of the features of the institute also is that specialists from many fields, including natural sciences such as physical science, engineering, biology and agriculture and also the humanities such as economics and sociology, are joining hands for specific research projects.

The institute has research facilities for plant experiments (phytotron), for animal experiments (zootron) and for water environment experiments (aquatron), as well as its photochemical smog chamber for atmospheric chemical reaction studies.

In addition, it has an atmospheric diffusion wind tunnel to simulate actual physical phenomena in the atmosphere, such as the flow and diffusion of pollutants.

Other facilities are for soil environment experiments, radioisotope experiments and waste treatment.

In the zootron sector, two-year studies are now under way on how nitrogen dioxide affects the health of rats. The two-year chronic toxicity test was launched last year.

After nitrogen dioxide studies are completed, probes into the composite pollution of the atmosphere by ozone and the effects on the human body of heavy metals are planned.

The photochemical smog chamber is a horizontal cylindrical device with an internal diameter of 145 cm and a length of 350 cm. It is equipped with a solar simulator, an air purifier and a chemical analyzer.

With the use of the device, researchers say they have found that photochemical smog increases in density in proportion to the amount of nitrogen dioxide, not hydrocarbon, in the air.

It is said that photochemical smog is developed when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides react with ozone in the air and the ultra-violet rays of the sun.

But, the actual process of production has yet to be clarified.

The atmospheric diffusion wind tunnel has shown that the disparity in temperatures during the day and night along seashores causes air pollutants to circulate and rise in concentration.

CSO: 5000

JAPAN

NEW WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS MAY INCREASE POLLUTION

Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 14 Jan 79 p 12

[Text] The Environment Agency, once criticized for easing controls on nitrogen oxides (NOx), is planning to do the same in fixing new standards of controls on water pollution.

This is the fear entertained by pollution fighters in Tokyo and three neighboring prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba. A tentative guidance released by the agency indicates that some of the tightest controls envisaged by the agency may even be much easier than the controls already in force in some areas, according to the pollution fighters.

Beginning in June this year, the government plans to enforce a new formula of water pollution control in three of the most polluted areas in the country—Tokyo Bay, Ise Bay with Nagoya as its central port, and the Seto Inland Sea.

Under the new formula, the maximum chemical oxygen demand (COD) standards will be set for each region. Heretofore, each polluter has been ordered to minimize his pollution below certain levels—a formula not necessarily effective when the number of polluters increases.

In enforcing the controls of the new type, the agency plans to allow each prefecture to fix its own maximum COD levels within certain limits to be set by the agency.

Antipollution officials of Tokyo and the three other prefectures, however, learned that some of the pollution levels under study by the agency are much easier than those the prefectures have enforced.

The maximum permissible COD density for waters discharged by a sewage treatment plan is 20 ppm in Chiba and 25 ppm in Tokyo. The agency's tentative plan, on the other hand, calls for the maximum level of 30 ppm.

The four prefectures are of the opinion that such a guideline by the agency is almost nonsensical, because it completely ignores the antipollution efforts rendered by the four and other prefectures.

They are hoping the agency will reconsider its present guideline and study a severer one.

CSO: 5000

JAPAN

CHIBA PREFECTURE ADOPTS STIFF NOX LIMIT

Tokyo MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 78 p 12

[Text]

CHIBA—Chiba Prefecture east of Tokyo has designated 0.04 parts per million (ppm), or the lower limit of the target zone set by the Environment Agency concerning nitrogen oxides (NOx), as the target of its NOx control.

Chiba has thus become the first prefecture to fix its own target since July last year when the agency abolished its earlier and much severer target of 0.02 ppm and instead offered a new target zone ranging from 0.04 to 0.06 ppm. The decision by the central government invited sharp criticism from environmentalists all over the country.

It was suspected at that time that the government had succumbed to complaints filed by industrial circles against its earlier 0.02 ppm target.

Observers say that the decision by Chiba Prefecture may exert an influence on other prefectures which have been unable to fix their own targets with the government's zone.

Chiba at first wanted to fix the same target together with the three other southern Kanto prefectures of Tokyo, Kanagawa and Saitama. But, various factors prevent such a joint action.

The lower limit of the government's target zone was a natural choice for Chiba which has for some time concluded an antipollution agreement with 50 major industries in the prefecture on NOx, which is most responsible for air pollution. According to the agreement, these industries must cooperate in keeping the daily average of NOx within 0.04 ppm.

CSO: 5000

WEST GERMANY

ESCAPED CHEMICALS POLLUTE AIR IN BAVARIA

Hamburg STERN in German 18 Jan 79 pp 146-148

[Article by Gerhard Tomkowitz: "The Big Fart"]

[Text] For a whole day, half of Upper Bavaria suffered under an ominous stinking cloud, with no one admitting responsibility.

On the morning of the Day of Epiphany, a holiday in Bavaria, the telephones rang at the police stations in Burghausen on the Salzach and in Muehldorf on the Inn, the caller complaining about an "infernal smell penetrating all cracks of the houses." One inhabitant of Burghausen reported the "smell of rotten eggs," another the "disgusting smell of old white cabbage--like an enormous fart."

The invisible stinking cloud spread from east to west and finally, toward noon, reached Augsburg.

As early as 0430 hours, a measuring vehicle of the Bavarian Office for the Protection of the Environment had made the first pollution measurements. The result: The air contained methane and hydrogen sulfide. But the Bavarians were in luck. While methane is explosive and hydrogen sulfide highly toxic, in the established quantities of 1.5 and 0.0016 parts of methane and hydrogen sulfide, respectively, per 1 million parts of air, neither substance was dangerous.

But these questions remained: Might the concentration be greater elsewhere, and where did the smell come from? The emergency service at the Office for the Protection of the Environment first suspected that the source was the huge natural gas stores at Assling, Wolfersberg and Bierwang east of Munich. But the stores were intact.

Two other measuring vehicles and one laboratory caravan drove further east. Telephone enquiries about possible operational breakdowns were made at all industrial enterprises each of Munich that might have been responsible for the pollution with methane and hydrogen sulfide. These included

Deutsche Marathon Petroleum GmbH, which has a petrochemical plant in the so-called chemical triange near Burghausen. The management of the plant said toward 0200 hours a condensate pump had been stopped because of a fault, and "a few drops" of condensate and hydrogen sulfide had escaped.

But this was only a small part of the truth, because toward 1000 hours an anonymous caller told the people at the environment protection office: "You had better take a close look at Deutsche Marathon; there was a big breakdown there last night." Now, questioned by the environment protection officials with painful severity, the firm moved away a little from the "small drop," saying that a thin "spurt of liquid" had escaped, but certainly no more than 50 liters. Chemists of the environment office, on the other hand, figured that it had to be at least 500 liters. The firm stanchly disputed any connection between the smell and its chemicals. The Ministry of the Environment, however, regards the enterprise as responsible, on the basis of "clear evidence."

Be that as it may, the case once more revealed a gap in the law. Obligatory reporting is defined so imprecisely in the antipollution law that firms find it easy to classify a breakdown as a "trivial incident" not subject to reporting and, if something happens, simply to say nothing.

This happened, for instance, in February 1978. At that time about 2 tons of radioactive steam escaped for 4 hours from the OHU Nuclear Power Plant operated by Bayernwerk AG and Isar-Amperwerke. The management of the plant considered this trivial and did not inform the authorities until 29 hours had passed.

According to officials in the Munich Ministry for the Protection of the Environment, "incidents happen daily in the chemical industry throughout the Federal Republic." Many firms, however, do not report the incidents, apparently in the hope that the pollution connected with it will not become known in the first place.

Thus Bavarian Minister for the Environment Alfred Dick considers it fortunate that his officials were able to track down the Deutsche Marathon Petroleum GmbH. The firm is now threatened with a fine of DM105,000. Probably it will also have to bear the cost of the investigative action.

In the meantime firms offending against the environment probably will continue to go unscathed. Actually people at the Federal Ministry of the Interior have been working for more than a year on a "breakdown ordinance" intended to remove the gaps and shortcomings of existing regulations. But there is no way of telling when the ordinance will be able to go into force, for the industry, according to the Ministry of the Interior, "sees a danger to its trade secrets and is already complaining about too much bureaucracy." And the Laender too keep making new suggestions for changes. Until the next stinking cloud.

END

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